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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 AMMAN 002098

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/26/2013

TAGS: [AEMR](#) [AMGT](#) [PREL](#) [ASEC](#) [CASC](#) [CVIS](#) [EFIN](#) [ETRD](#) [IZ](#) [JO](#)

SUBJECT: TFI201: AMMAN SITREP 30 (4/07 1530 LOCAL)

Classified By: DCM Gregory L. Berry for reasons 1.5 (B)(D).

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General Overview  
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[11](#). (C) The Embassy is operating on a normal schedule April [17](#). Consular services are open. Activities at the American Language Center remain suspended, and there is only restricted activity by FSN's at the Peace Corps office. Movements of American staff remain restricted.

[12](#). (SBU) Please note that effective immediately we have suspended 24-hour coverage at the Embassy's Crisis Liaison Unit (CLU). Calls can still be answered in the CLU during regular work hours (962-6-592-0101, ext. 2599, x2366; STU III 962-6-592-7740; FAX 962-6-592-0101). After hours inquiries, however, will be handled by the Embassy Duty Officer at 962-79-560-9987.

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Consular Issues  
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[13](#). (U) No new issues.

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GOJ Actions/Statements  
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[14](#). (U) Petra, the official government news agency, reports that during an audience with the chairman and members of the Executive Committee of Workers Trade Unions, the King affirmed that he had given instructions to the government to consider the situation of Jordanian sectors affected by the continuation of the "war against brotherly Iraq." He also "reiterated Jordan's clear position of rejection" of the war, and stated that Jordan "will go on in working to exert our utmost with friendly and brotherly countries to stop this war." (Ref FBIS GMP20030406000179)

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Security  
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[15](#). (U) As of 1415 hrs, the situation in Jordan remains calm. A demonstration is planned for 1700 at the King Abdullah Mosque in Amman and antiwar speeches are scheduled to take place at the Labor Complex in Irbid starting at 1930.

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Economic and Trade Developments  
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[16](#). (sbu) The Amman Stock Exchange (ASE) closed up 2% on Monday after a day of heavy trading. Industrial stocks continue to lead the charge, as investors continue to focus on companies likely to benefit from Iraqi reconstruction.

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Refugee/Humanitarian Issues  
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[17](#). (C) The Jordan-Iraq border remains open. IOM reports that three additional TCNs crossed into Jordan from Iraq on April 6; no new TCN arrivals were reported yet today, April 7. Still no sign of any Iraqi refugees/asylum seekers, though Ruweished currently is abuzz with rumors of 1,000 Iraqi nationals queued up on the other side of the border. CENTCOM sources have no evidence to confirm such rumors.

[18](#). (C) 22 undocumented Palestinians remain in no-man's land at the border. UNHCR has begun to press GOJ officials -- both publicly and privately -- to grant temporary entry to these Palestinians. UNHCR Rep Sten Bronee told refcoord that the GOJ decided late on April 6 to admit 13 of these undocumented Palestinians, but UNHCR officials in Ruweished report that the entire group remains in no-man's land. UNHCR/Amman is willing to care for these Palestinians at the refugee camp, arguing that it has a mandate for Palestinians normally resident outside UNRWA's areas of operation (e.g., Iraq). So far, the GOJ has insisted that Palestinians admitted to Jordan be housed in the TCN transit camp.

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Press

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19. (SBU) The Embassy press office arranged two news conferences today for the visiting USAID DART Team Leader, Michael Marx, to highlight the USG's humanitarian efforts: one for the international press, including ABC, Fox News, Newsday and others, and the other with Arabic translation for the local and Arabic regional press.

110. (SBU) Embassy Press office also took local and foreign reporters to view a warehouse full of prepositioned commodities bound for Iraq. Abu Dhabi TV and numerous other Arab and foreign TV teams, plus Petra, the Jordanian National News Agency, and other major dailies covered the event.  
GNEHM